

DITCH CREEK GUARD STATION, GARAGE
(Building No. 1504)
West Side of Forest Development Rd. 21
Heppner Ranger District
Umatilla National Forest
Heppner Vicinity
Morrow County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-151-A

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DITCH CREEK GUARD STATION, GARAGE (Building No. 1504)
HABS No. OR-151-A

Location: Umatilla National Forest, Heppner Ranger District, Heppner, vicinity, Morrow County, Oregon. West side of Forest Development Road 21 .5 miles north of intersection of FDR 21 and FDR 2104.

U.S.G.S. Arbuckle Mountain, Oregon Quadrangle (7.5 min.)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
Zone 11 Northing 4,998,660 m. Easting 315,460 m.

Present Owner: Umatilla National Forest
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2517 SW. Hailey Ave.
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Present Use: None.

**Statement of
Significance:**

The Ditch Creek Guard Station Carage is one of 54 buildings on the Umatilla National Forest determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places that is associated with a period of dynamic change in Forest Service administrative policy: they physically portray the transition from custodial supervision of the National Forests to extensive management and resource development. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided the work force to build the necessary new facilities. Thus, the buildings are also directly associated with the Federal Government's response to the Great Depression. They are tangible evidence of the positive impact of President Roosevelt's first emergency relief program.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: All of the buildings at the Ditch Creek Guard Station were constructed by the CCC in 1934.
2. Architect/Builder: The architect is unknown.
3. Original Owner: The building was built for the U.S.D.A. Umatilla National Forest.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The building was constructed by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps.
5. Original Plans and Construction: There are no plans available for the building.
6. Alterations and Additions: The building has not been altered since it was constructed.

B. Historical Context

The Ditch Creek Guard Station Garage is one of 54 buildings on the Umatilla National Forest determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places associated with a period of dynamic change in Forest Service administrative policy: they physically portray the transition from custodial supervision of the National Forests to extensive management and resource development. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided the work force to build the necessary new facilities. Thus, the buildings are also directly associated with the Federal Government's response to the Great Depression. They are tangible evidence of the positive impact of President Roosevelt's first emergency relief program.

Depression-era administrative buildings symbolize the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. The architecture, through repeated use of a group of basic forms and designs, represents Forest Service purposes and ideals and establishes Forest Service identity. Sturdy architectural designs provide a feeling of enduring substance, and evoke the character of the old growth environment. The lavish use of wood communicates the wealth of our timber-rich region. Architects used natural materials, textures, and shapes to blend the buildings with their surroundings. Thus it is the Pacific Northwest Region (Region-6) rustic style of architecture that visually ties the buildings to a time and place.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION.

A. General Statement

The Ditch Creek Guard Station Garage is a one story utilitarian building constructed of wood on a concrete foundation. The building is rectangular with a gabled roof. There is a double hung sash single pane window on the east & west end of the building and a double hung sash single pane window on the south facing side adjacent to a door.

1. Architectural character: The building is an example of Region 6 Depression-era Rustic Style architecture constructed by the CCC.

2. Condition of fabric: The exterior of the building has suffered some minor natural deterioration.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions: 7.42 meters x 3.77 meters x 4.73 meters.

2. Foundations: The foundation is constructed of poured concrete and is still in good condition.

3. Walls: Walls are constructed of wood frame with wooden shiplap surface. They are painted with red paint.

4. Structural systems, framing: 2 x 4 rough cut on 61 cm centers.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: Unattached stoop 1.83 x 1.17 meters.

6. Chimneys: None.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There is a double leaf, vertical plain, vehicle entry door on the west face of the garage and a five panel single leaf entry door on the south face of the garage.

b. Windows and shutters: One double hung sash single pane window on the south face of the garage and two additional double hung sash single pane windows on the east and west face of the garage.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable, cedar shake shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: Fascia alone, eaves projecting, no rafters exposed.

c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Rectangular.
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: Fiberboard over plywood on 2 by 12 studs.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: None.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: (see item 7a)
 - b. Windows: (see item 7b)
6. Decorative features and trim: None.
7. Hardware: None.
8. Mechanical equipment: None.
9. Original furnishings: None.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Ditch Creek garage is located on a gently sloping terrace above the confluence of Ditch and Martin Creeks surrounded by lodgepole pine. This building is located 16.8 meters north of the main Guard Station house allowing ample space for the maneuvering of equipment into the garage. The Guard Station lies below the garage and is surrounded by native vegetation.
2. Historic landscape design: The Ditch Creek garage shows no evidence of the purposeful planting of non-native or native shrub and tree species characteristic of region 6 C.G.C. era administrative site landscaping.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Throop, Elizabeth Gail

- 1979 Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to the Depression. An Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest System Lands in the Pacific Northwest. M.A. Thesis, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Umatilla National Forest has declared this building excess and plans to dispose of it. This form constitutes the mitigative recording of the building required by a Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Region 6, the State Historic Preservation Officers of the States of Washington and Oregon, and the Advisory Council of Historic Places.

Prepared by: William S. White
Title: Archaeologist
Affiliation: Umatilla National Forest
Date: March 6, 1990

